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## Saguaro National Park News Release

14-45

*For Immediate Release*

July 24, 2014

Contact: Scott Stonum at (520) 733-5101 or Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150

### **DEER HEAD FIRE IGNITED BY LIGHTNING IN SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK'S RINCON MOUNTAINS**

Tucson, AZ –A lightning-ignited fire was discovered today in the Rincon Mountains, near Spud Rock Springs. The Deer Head Fire was first detected on July 24, 2014 at approximately 11:11 a.m. It is estimated to be approximately 15-20 acres.

The fire is burning within the Saguaro Wilderness at an elevation of approximately 7,500 feet. It is burning in steep, rugged terrain. Vegetation in the area includes ponderosa pine, oak and brush. The area has burned six times since the 1940s, and most recently during the 1994 Rincon Fire. Fire behavior is currently moderate, dampened by humidity and recent rain.

Fire managers are currently monitoring the fire from the ground. They plan to conduct a reconnaissance flight this afternoon to better assess the situation and determine the need for suppression response. Firefighters will respond as needed.

The fire is in the vicinity of the Heartbreak Ridge Trail, however no closures have been implemented at this time. Backcountry visitors are encouraged to check with the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center for current conditions and updates on potential trail closures.

Smoke is visible from Tucson, Vail, Benson and the surrounding area. Smoke may settle in the east side of Tucson when air temperatures cool at night and in the early morning hours. Smoke usually lifts during the day.

The Saguaro Wildland Fire Module is currently assigned to the incident. A Type 3 helicopter has been ordered. Cooperators include the Coronado National Forest.

For updated information please visit <http://nps.gov/sagu> or call the park's Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150.

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)